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# CONFERENCE *connection*

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 3, 2019

## Making Connections

Grace to you and peace! Easter has been and continues to be celebrated! But May is now here which means that the Conference Annual Meeting is close upon us (May 31-June 2). **Have you registered yet? Do it now! Deadline is May 15!** The deadline is necessary so that meals, T-shirts, and printing can be prepared and ordered. Our Annual Meeting will be an exciting opportunity to be in community with each other! We will welcome the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. There will also be uplifting worship, some amazing workshops (which are posted on the website), a pig-roast, time for fellowship, etc. Y'all come!



Communication about the Annual Meeting and other happenings across the Conference is so crucial for our connections, but it is also so challenging! In a recent "Coffee with Char" virtual conversation with some authorized ministers (via the Zoom web program), we were talking about being connected within the Conference. You may be reading this article via email or Facebook. Great! But are there others you know within your local church or colleagues that are not connected and therefore do not know about opportunities and events.

I remember the pastor of a church in another UCC Conference who entered the email addresses of all the local church Council members so that they would be informed about the Conference (a person can always unsubscribe to our *Conference Connection*). In another church, it was part of the position description of the local church Vice Moderator to keep the Church Council

informed about the wider church. He/she would receive the Conference emails and check the Facebook page then provide a report to the Church Council (and congregation) about issues and events in the Conference. Other churches have arranged for the information on the Conference Facebook page to appear on their local church Facebook page.

Although some local churches may not have internet/email (we did mail Annual Meeting information to churches through the postal service), there are individuals within the congregation who do have it. Perhaps this can be their special way to keep the church connected.

All of this is to say that "making connections" is an ongoing process that requires all of us. Meanwhile – I am looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting! Blessings!

Blessings!  
Char

## 2019 Annual Meeting



*That We May All Be One*

### **Southeast Conference Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, May 30 to Sunday, June 2**

**NEW LOCATION for 2019!**

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Tennessee

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**Only 12 Days Left to Register Online!**

Please join us for the Southeast Conference's 53rd Annual Meeting at Pleasant Hill, TN May 31st- June 2nd. Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ is our special guest this year. Along with our special guest and business meeting we will be offering a number of workshops including "How to Create a Green Team, Supporting Members in Discernment, and How Does the UCC Work?" Plus many more!

Every church is invited to bring three delegates plus a delegate for each additional 100 members. All Authorized Ministers who hold standing in the Southeast Conference have voice and vote in the meeting. Churches are also welcome to bring as many guests as they would like so please come and bring a guest or two! We need your voice and you to make this a meaningful Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there!

**REGISTER ONLINE BY MAY 15**

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## Expo at Annual Meeting

Calling all people, businesses, or UCC affiliated entities that would like to have a table at the Expo at the Southeast Conference's Annual Meeting May 30th- June 1st. This year we are opening up our Expo to crafters and non-profits as well as UCC affiliated entities.

- Have you written a book?
- Does your church sell Fair Trade items?
- Do you make stoles?
- Design websites for churches and non-profits?
- Offer educational opportunities for clergy or lay leadership?

A table at the Expo might be for you! If you are interested in reserving a table, please contact email Heather at [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org).

## News from the Conference Office

### From the Generosity Coordinator

It is with much joy that I say "**CONGRATULATIONS**" to all those who applied to and received a Cycle One, 2019 Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives grant award. Those recipients are:

- Rush Memorial UCC, Atlanta, GA
- Open Table UCC, Mobile, AL
- Victory for the World UCC, Stone Mountain, GA
- Covenant Community UCC, Center Point, AL
- United Church of Cookeville, TN
- Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, SC



Our prayers are with each of these churches as they continue to do the work that is so vital in Transforming Churches, and Transforming Lives. Lest we forget; We are all on this journey TOGETHER. "Whatever affects one of directly affects all of us indirectly." (MLK)

I look forward to seeing and spending time with each and every one of you at our Annual Meeting, May 31-June 2, 2019 in Pleasant Hill, TN

Please continue to invite me to your churches. I am thoroughly enjoying spending time and experiencing worship with you.

Together we stand, divided we fall. Please let us continue our journey...together.

Blessings,  
Min. Carrole Moss



## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2019. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

### Week of April 29

- United Congregational Christian UCC; Columbus, Georgia
- Tonya Barnette
- Rodney Franklin
- Joyce Myers Brown
- Laura Landrum

### Week of May 6

- Rush Memorial Congregational UCC; Atlanta, Georgia
- Mercy Monroe
- Patricia Hough
- Annette Nielsen
- Lisa Stewart

### Week of May 13

- Phoenix Christian Church; Wildersville, Tennessee
- LaCretia Bellamy
- Marcia Free
- Warner Noles
- Andy Sidden
- Katharine Toledano

## **Churches in Transition**

Central Congregational, Atlanta, GA; United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA

## **News from the Wider Church**

### **General Synod's Shine! Festival features food, fun for all ages**

If you are going to the United Church of Christ General Synod in June, you don't want to miss a chance to take in one of Milwaukee's mightiest ways of celebrating summer. The Shine! Festival is slated for Sunday, June 23, from 4:30 - 8:30 pm in Milwaukee's Zeidler Union Square. The fun starts Sunday

afternoon after the community worship service, just one block south of the convention center in Milwaukee's first park. More than a half-dozen food trucks will be parked around Zeidler Union Square, offering festival-goers a variety of local dining options. Attendance to the Shine! Fest is free and open to all. All ages are welcome. If you're attending Synod, be sure to [let us know](#) so we can include you in our Conference activities!

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## World Fair Trade Day - May 11

Join Global Ministries in recognizing World Fair Trade Day on May 11. Economic globalization profoundly impacts local communities, cultures and ways of life. While increased private investment and trade may grow markets, our global partners witness the challenges globalization often poses in their communities-- wider economic disparity and exploitation. Support your local fair trade shop and artisans around the world. [Find products and stores near you.](#)

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## Become an Adese Fellow

The Adese Fellowship is a year-long, ecumenical program that engages participants in self-discovery, theological reflection and business development as they create enterprises that help their communities follow the way of Jesus and live into God's economy. This groundbreaking fellowship maximizes the business acumen and entrepreneurial capacity of participants to launch scaleable and sustainable ventures that counter systemic poverty. Participants apply to the program to advance a concept or early-stage venture, at the heart of which is the biblical call to bring good news to the poor. The cohort of participants are laity and clergy. They come from rural and urban locations and are different in age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and ability. What they share in common is a passion to engage at intersections, most especially faith and enterprise. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

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## Is Your Church Playground Safe?

According to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, there are 220,000 estimated emergency room treated injuries annually due to playgrounds. More than 20,000 of those visits were for traumatic brain injuries, such as concussions. The most recent study by the National Program for Playground Safety indicated that falls are the most common



hazard (80% of injuries). Other hazard patterns involved equipment, such as breakage, tip over, design, and assembly and entrapment; and colliding with other children or stationary equipment. Playground-related deaths involved entanglement of ropes, leashes, or clothing; falls; and impact from equipment tip over or structural failure. [Read more on page 3 of the Insurance Board newsletter.](#)

## News from Our Local Congregations

### Upper Room UCC Fellowship Spring Potluck Supper

*by Tony England*

A supper gathering of Nashville & Mid-TN UCC churches will occur on Saturday, May 18th @ 5:30 PM at Howard Congregational Church (2802 Buchanan Street, Nashville). Howard UCC Choir will be in sacred concert! Special Guest Speaker from Birmingham: Rev. J.R. Finney, Moderator of the Southeast UCC Conference! Evening's theme: "Taking Time Just to Be in God's Loving Care." Bring family, friends, and favorite casserole for great UCC fellowship & inspiration!

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### Used Choir Robes Available

The Fairfield Glade Community Church choir has purchased new choir robes, and they looking for a good home for their old choir robes. If any church in the conference needs choir robes please contact [Nancy Nowacki](#). The folks from Fairfield Glade will be at Annual Meeting in May, so you can easily pick up the robes at that time.

We love sharing news from our local congregations! Please send us pictures and explanations of special events at your church that we can share on our website, social media, and in this email newsletter. We think it's a great way to share ideas for events, as well as celebrating what other UCC churches are doing!

**Email us at [communications@secucc.org](mailto:communications@secucc.org).**

## Training and Learning Opportunities



## Boundary Training 101 Scheduled for May 30, 2019

*by Carrole Moss*

Date: May 30, 2019

Place: Pleasant Hill Community UCC

Event: Healthy Boundary Training 101

Time: 12:00 noon until 8:00pm

Did you know that it is now a **REQUIREMENT that all Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned clergy** serving in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ complete this training by December 2019? As of January 1, 2018 it has been mandated that all clergy attend this training and follow up every four years for a refresher course. This course will help you to learn or, refresh you on what your boundaries are, appropriate and inappropriate behavior, not just in the pulpit, but in your everyday life. It helps you with relationships, self care, social media and other issues.

There are stories of misconduct by clergy in the news, on social media, in our conversations, and on our minds, every day. Please **DO NOT** allow your name and your story to become a part of the media circus. Times have changed, people have changed...the conduct that was tolerated 10-20 years ago is no longer acceptable. Please help us to help you by making plans to attend this training. Remember: **Healthy Boundary Training is MANDATORY!!!**

The registration will be open in a few weeks on our website: [secucc.org](https://secucc.org). We urge you to make plans to be there. It is our promise that you will be informed and enlightened. When we know better, we do better!!! Come, let us grow together. I look forward to seeing you there.



## Conference Calendar

### **Annual Meeting Planning Session**

May 6 @ 5:00 pm - May 7 @ 5:00 pm CDT

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### **Upper Room UCC Fellowship**

May 18 @ 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm CDT

Howard Congregational Church, Nashville, TN

### **Staff Meeting**

May 28 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am EDT

Online Virtual Meeting

### **MID Retreat**

May 30 @ 10:00 am - May 31 @ 12:00 pm CDT

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### **Boundary Training**

May 30 @ 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm CDT

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### **SEC UCC Annual Meeting**

May 31 @ 12:00 pm - June 1 @ 4:00 pm EDT

Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN

### **Ordination of Thomas Coates**

June 16 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm CDT

Safe Harbor Family Church, Clinton, MS

### **UCC General Synod**

June 21 - June 25

Milwaukee, WI

## Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Char Burch**; [cburch@secucc.org](mailto:cburch@secucc.org)

Assoc. Conference Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh;** [hbardole@secucc.org](mailto:hbardole@secucc.org)

Generosity Coordinator: **Min. Carrole Moss;** [cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org)

Director of Communications: **Don Harris;** [dharris@secucc.org](mailto:dharris@secucc.org)

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